

Response form - consultation on water resources planning guideline

We welcome your views on our proposed changes to the water company water resources planning guideline.

An online or postal response to this consultation is not currently possible. Please use this form to respond to this consultation by email.

Returning your response

The consultation will run for 10 weeks from July 27 until 2 October 2020.

The closing date for responses is Friday 2 October.

Any responses we receive after this date will not be included in the analysis.

Please use this form to respond to the consultation by:

Email to: water-company-plan@environment-agency.gov.uk.

If your comments also relate to Wales, please could you copy in: WREPP@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

How we will use your information

The Environment Agency will look to make all responses publicly available during and after the consultation, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential.

We will not publish names of individuals who respond.

We will also publish a summary of responses on our website in which we will publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

If you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

The Environment Agency is the data controller for the personal data you provide. For further information on how we deal with your personal data please see our Personal Information Charter on gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter>) or contact our Data Protection team.

Address: Data Protection team, Environment Agency, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH

Email: dataprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Section 1: About you

To help us analyse the responses we receive we'd like to understand more about you and type of business you own, operate or represent.

Q1. Please tell us if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group.

Please select one answer only from the following options:

- Responding as an individual
- Responding on behalf of an organisation or group
- Other

If you're responding on behalf of an organisation or group, please tell us who you are responding on behalf of.

If you selected other, please specify

Q2. Keeping up to date

The Environment Agency would like to keep you informed about this consultation. If you would like to receive email updates about this consultation, please give us your email address below to provide consent.

We will keep your details until the consultation response document has been published or until you withdraw your consent.

You can withdraw your consent to receive these emails at any time by contacting us at water-company-plan@environment-agency.gov.uk.

We will not share your details with any other third party without your explicit consent unless required to by law.

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For further information on how we deal with your personal data please see our Personal Information Charter on GOV.UK (search 'Environment Agency personal information charter') or contact our Data Protection team.

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Please tell us if you would like to (tick all that apply)

- Receive an email acknowledging your response
- Receive an email to let you know that the summary of responses has been published

If you have ticked any of the boxes above, please provide us with your email address:

Email: _____

Q3. Can we publish your response? We will not publish any personal information or parts of your response that will reveal your identity.

- Yes
- No

If you do not want us to publish your response, you need to tell us why.

Q4. Please tell us how you found out about this consultation?

- From the Environment Agency
- From another organisation
- Through an organisation/group/club you're a member of
- Press article
- Social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter
- Through a meeting you attended
- Other (please specify) _____

Section 2: Your views

We welcome your views on the water resources planning guideline.

Please complete the questions and where there is a free text field, give as much information as possible to support your answer. To help us understand your response, please can you indicate the page, section and paragraph number your comments refer to.

Q6. Do you have any concerns, suggested improvements or comments regarding the guideline that you would like to highlight?

(Note - there are specific questions below on resilience, natural capital, the climate emergency and the environment)

Please tick relevant box

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain your concerns, improvements or comments. Please provide evidence for your views where you can.

Q7. Do you believe that the guideline allows water companies to produce plans with secure and resilient water supplies?

Please tick relevant box

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain your answer. If you ticked no, how could it address your concerns?

Q8. The 25 Year Environment plan states that it is the Government's ambition to leave our environment in a better state that we found it. Do you think the guideline sufficiently contributes to this aim?

Please tick relevant box

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain your answer. If you ticked no, how could it be improved?

Q9. The guideline incorporates a natural capital approach into decision-making. Do you agree with the approach set out in the guideline and supplementary guidance which combines the natural capital approach, biodiversity net gain and the Strategic Environmental Assessment into decision-making?

Please tick relevant box

- Yes
- No

I don't know

Q10. We are facing a climate emergency. Do you think our guideline adequately addresses this challenge?

(Please refer to the guideline and the supplementary guidance for this topic)

Please tick relevant box

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

Please explain your answer. If you ticked no, how could it be improved?

Q12. (England only) Our guidance asks companies to plan on the basis that the:

- water available is that they would have in a severe drought (with a probability of 0.2% occurrence each year or known as 1 in 500 drought)

- demand is a hot dry year before temporary use bans are in place, (known as dry year annual average)

This is considered to be a worst case scenario. Do you think this approach is appropriate? Or should water companies plan for a demand for water under the same severe drought scenario as their water supply assumptions?

(Please refer to the guideline and the supplementary guidance for this topic)

Please tick relevant box

- Use dry year annual average
 Use a '1 in 500 drought event' demand
 I don't know

Please explain your answer.

Q11. – Do you think it is clear what companies wholly or mainly in Wales need to do? (Separate from the English companies)

Please tick relevant box

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain your answer. If you ticked no, how could it be improved?